

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.-37. (cancelled)

38. (currently amended) A modular system for storing gas comprising:

- a plurality of pipes arranged in tiers;
- a means for insulating said pipes to maintain a reduced temperature;
- a system for loading ~~and unloading~~ gas into [[from]] said pipes;
- a system for unloading gas from said pipes;
- a manifold system connecting said pipes to said loading and unloading system;
- a structural frame to support said pipes; and
- an outer enclosure.

39. (original) The modular system of claim 38 wherein said pipes are arranged vertically.

40. (original) A storage system for gas comprising:

- a plurality of pipes in parallel relationship forming a plurality of tiers of pipes;
- a plurality of support members extending between adjacent tiers of pipe and having opposing accurate recesses for housing individual pipes;
- said pipes and support members forming a pipe bundle;
- manifolds and valves connecting the ends of said pipe; and
- insulation surrounding said pipe bundle.

41. (original) The system of claim 40 further including liners between said support members and said pipes.

42. (original) The system of claim 40 wherein said pipe is welded to said support members.

43. (original) The system of claim 40 wherein said pipe is welded to said support members at warmer temperatures than the gas storage temperature whereby the resulting strain is taken in said pipe.

44. (original) The system of claim 40 wherein said pipes are clamped between said support members.

45. (original) The system of claim 40 wherein said pipes may expand and contract longitudinally between said support members.

46. (original) The system of claim 40 wherein said support members are straps of steel plate bent to conform to the outside curvature of adjacent tiers of pipe.

47. (original) The system of claim 40 wherein an interlocked structure is formed such that Poisson's ratio of the pipe bundle approaches one.

48. (original) The system of claim 40 further including a low-friction or anti-erosion material between said pipes and said straps.

49. (original) The system of claim 40 wherein the ends of said straps are connected to an enclosure for said pipe bundle.

50. (original) The system of claim 49 wherein said individual pipes are allowed to move independently in response to the movement of said enclosure.

51. (original) The system of claim 40 wherein said manifolds close each end of said pipe and includes tier manifolds communicating the interior of said pipes with master manifolds for loading and unloading the gas stored in said pipes.

52. (original) The system of claim 40 wherein said valves include flow control members between said pipe ends and said tier manifolds and between said tier manifold and said master manifolds.

53. (original) The system of claim 40 further including a frame forming an enclosure around said pipe bundle.

54. (original) The system of claim 53 further including filling the enclosure with a nitrogen atmosphere.

55. (original) The system of claim 54 further including means for circulating the nitrogen around the pipes within the enclosure.

56. (original) The system of claim 53 wherein said enclosure is formed by a flexible, insulating skin of panels or a semi-rigid, multi-layered membrane.

57. (original) The system of claim 56 wherein said enclosure may be inflated with nitrogen.

58. (original) The system of claim 40 wherein said pipes may be either vertical or horizontal with the ground.

59.-70. (cancelled)